

# Discussant: Blended Base for Population Estimates

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Do you have any questions about why we needed a new approach for producing the Vintage 2021 population estimates or how we implemented Blended Base?

# Discussant Questions:

- Why is using unprotected Census 2020 as a base for estimates a violation of Title 13?
- How did the Census Bureau come up with the Blended Base process, and what input, if any, did the Census Bureau solicit from interested stakeholders, etc.?

# Discussant Questions:

- Can you explain in greater detail how the use of a Blended Base eliminates distortions from differential privacy and errors from the 2020 Decennial Census in the Vintage 2021 population estimates, and for whom/which groups?
- With respect to data availability from the 2020 Census, are all the necessary data available now that would be necessary for use in future Population Estimates for the decade?
  - Or, does the use of differential privacy make future use of the 2020 Decennial Census a potential challenge for future Population Estimates?

Do you have recommendations for our ongoing research on the Blended Base?

# Discussant Considerations:

- What are the populations that might be helped or hurt by the use of Blended Base?
  - For example, does the use of Blended Base help mitigate the undercount of Latinos/Hispanics from the 2020 Decennial Census? Or is there a possibility that Blended Base could exacerbate undercount rates?
- What are the implications of having inconsistent total population counts for cities, counties, towns, and subcounty places between 2020 Decennial Census totals and total population estimates?
- What, if any, effect will Blended Base have on race and ethnicity data in the Population Estimates, and how is the Census Bureau planning to test or research that effect?

# Discussant Considerations:

- What is the effect on ACS/CPS data accuracy as a result of the use of Blended Base, as compared to when the Population Estimates use the Decennial Census?
- Are there other potential data sources that could be utilized that would help to address ongoing biases/undercounts for race and ethnic groups?
- How are population estimates, specifically the blended base, affected by potential errors in race and ethnicity data from birth certificates?

What additional information would be helpful for the NAC members to make recommendations about this topic?



# Requests for Additional Information:

- Is the Census Bureau internally going to check its estimates against estimates based on unprotected Census 2020 data?
- Where is the Census Bureau in making a determination about the suitability of the 2020 Census to serve as the base for future Population Estimates? What is the Bureau looking at in order to make the final determination?
- What is the Census Bureau's timeline for research and methodology for future Vintage Population Estimates?

# Requests for Additional Information:

- What is the timeline for the E2 findings this year?
- What is the timeline for receiving additional data to use in the Vintage 2022 Estimates?
- What are the different data sources being considered for the Vintage 2022 Estimates?
- What opportunities will there be for public input on this topic (outside of the NAC and CSAC)?

Are there suggestions from NAC members on how we can more effectively communicate information about Blended Base?

# Closing Thoughts and Recommendations:

- Provide data users with plain language explanations of the data sources that are used to create the Blended Base.
- Provide clearer communication regarding proper usage for the Population Estimates data product, and how, if at all, that usage may be affected by Blended Base.

# Comments and Committee Discussion

